Boating Law Enforcement Programs

In support of the California Department of Boating and Waterways' mission to provide leadership in promoting the public's right to safe and enjoyable boating

promoting the public's right to safe and enjoyable boating on California waterways, the Enforcement Unit's primary objectives are:

- To provide for adequate boating law enforcement through local agencies
- To ensure that the enforcement of California boating laws is uniform throughout the State.

The Enforcement Unit meets these objectives through programs that provide officer training and financial aid to local boating law enforcement agencies.



A. Financial Aid Program (Subvention Program)

The purpose of the Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program is to provide State financial aid to local governmental agencies whose waterways have high usage by transient boaters and an insufficient tax base to fully support a boating safety and enforcement program. The program is intended to augment existing local resources for boating safety and enforcement activities on California waterways.

These funds also support enforcement of state laws, regulations and local ordinances affecting boating activities, vessel inspection, supervision of water events, search and rescue operations, and recovery of drowned bodies.

During 2003/2004, the Department allocated \$8.1 million in funding to 36 counties and 2 cities for boating law enforcement operations including maintenance, equipment, and personnel costs.

Exhibit III-1 (right) presents a summary of services supported during this period by the financial aid program:

Services Supported by the Financial Aid Program

Exhibit III-1

Regulation Enforcement

Verbal Warnings	_73,778
Citations	4,434
Physical Arrests	454

Boater Assistance

Persons Assisted	19,841
Vessels Assisted	5,513
Accident Investigations	460

Search and Rescue Operations

Searches	676
Body Recovery Attempts	_ 77

Education

Boating Safety Presentations ______5,955

Other

Organized Boating Event Supervision __ 199

Boating law enforcement officers provide important safety education to the boating public. The Department's partnerships with the law enforcement community provide the Department with an excellent resource to help educate and communicate with the recreational boater

In FY 2003/04, law enforcement officers provided boating safety education to nearly 79,000 vessel operators, primarily by means of public contact and verbal warnings, which act as teaching tools to educate boaters and help prevent accidents.

B. Marine Law Enforcement Training Program

In California, boating law enforcement is performed at the local level. This unique and efficient method of serving the recreational boater can present challenges at times.

To ensure that boating law is being properly interpreted and enforced, the Department offers an extensive marine law enforcement-training program. This program services over 100 public agencies tasked with providing public safety on the water. As a result, boaters can expect uniform law enforcement on waterways throughout the State.

In 2004, the Department conducted 23 Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified classes (896 hours) throughout the State and trained 547 marine patrol officers. Officers learned how to apply a multitude of skills emphasizing their roles of maintaining safety on public waterways. The courses are designed for law enforcement personnel and are taught by law enforcement specialists who bring great expertise and credibility to the training program.

Recent improvement to the Accident Investigation/ Reconstruction (new Vessel Accident Report Manual) and Boating Intoxication Enforcement (new Boating Under the Influence video) continue to keep California on the cutting edge of marine law enforcement training.

The Department offers training classes in the following areas:

Basic Boating Safety and Enforcement

Newly assigned Marine Patrol Officers are introduced to California Boating law and its interpretation as it pertains to vessel registration, operation and equipment requirements.

Boating Accident Investigation / Reconstruction

Officers develop the ability to understand and practice technical accident reconstruction procedures and how to manage accident scenes.

Boating Intoxication Enforcement

This course updates officers on current laws regarding intoxicated vessel operation, with emphasis on current arrest procedures, chemical testing, report preparation, and courtroom procedures.

Boating – Basic Skills Training

This course is for marine patrol officers entering the water rescue and enforcement field.

Coastal Piloting and Navigation

Necessary background in the fundamentals of Piloting and Navigation are learned in this course.

Marine Firefighting

This course gives officers first hand knowledge of marine firefighting practices.

Personal Watercraft

Marine Patrol Officers utilizing PWC in patrol operations learn basic slow speed maneuvers, handling characteristics, rescue board usage, and related enforcement issues.

Seamanship - Rescue Boat Operations

Marine patrol officers learn how to handle emergency rescue boats under varying conditions.

Boating Safety Education Programs

The Safety and Education Units have two primary objectives to support the California Department of Boating and Waterways' mission:

- To provide accessible boating safety education for youths and adults
- To educate and protect youth operators by developing and distributing boating and aquatic safety material to California schools.

The Department relies on partnerships with several organizations (educational institutions, aquatic centers, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadrons) to provide boating safety education. The Department provides educational institutions with free course materials on boating and aquatic safety information. Aquatic centers that offer on-the-water safety education are eligible for Department grants and scholarships. Last year, these partnerships provided 693,000 individuals with boating safety education.



A. Educational Outreach to School-Age Children

AquaSMART

The Department developed the *AquaSMART* curriculum to educate school-age children about water safety. The course is a three-part series for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grades. Course materials cover a variety of topics involving boating and aquatic safety. Nearly 500,000 elementary school students benefit from the *AquaSMART* education programs annually.

The Department also disseminates the *AquaSMART Boating* program for high school students. Key safety concerns identified by accident statistics are incorporated into the curriculum. Four types of boating are addressed: personal watercraft, powerboating, sailing, and paddling. The course is available to schools, aquatic centers, and youth organizations.

Poster Contest

Public and private school children in the K-8 grade levels are invited every year to participate in the Department's *Safe* & *Wise Water Ways* poster calendar contest. It is the Department's philosophy that safety lessons learned and practiced at an early age serve to protect individuals throughout their lifetime. A poster contest designed to promote boating and aquatic safety among children is a good way to convey such lessons.

A contest advertisement is sent directly to all California elementary and middle schools. Entry information is also posted on our Department web site, **www.BoatSmarter.com**, and promoted by local radio and/or television stations. Nine statewide winning entries are chosen (one for each grade level) and featured on an annual poster calendar produced and distributed by the Department.

Corporate sponsors contribute to the success of this program by providing awards for the winners. In 2004, sponsors included Kawasaki, Northern California Marine Association, Radio Disney, Southern California Marine Association and Yamaha. Prizes are distributed when Department representatives and our boating safety puppet show—AquaSMART Live!—personally congratulates the poster contest winners. AquaSMART Live! is a professionally produced multimedia program designed to teach students how to stay safe in and around California waterways. Splasher the Frog hosts the show. Besides congratulating the winner and the school, he shows them what can happen if we fail to practice safety in and around the water by using the AquaSMART Stunt Dummies.

The uniqueness of this program is that it allows different State organizations to work together as a group to reach one goal—boating and water safety. The State provides the information to schools, the teachers become the program directors, and children have the opportunity to become teachers.

The award-winning poster contest is now in its 12th year and most recently won the 2003 National Safe Boating Council's Boating Education Advancement Award. Lastly, although this program



is not mandatory, many teachers find it important enough to incorporate it into their already demanding curriculum requirements.

Interactive Tools

The Department uses SeaMore and Sea Lily, two interactive robotic boats, to communicate boating and water safety information to children and adults at safety fairs, schools, or boating events. These boats are available on loan to boating safety organizations and marine law enforcement agencies

B. Educational Outreach to the General Public

Aquatic Center Grant Program

The Department provides grant monies to aquatic centers throughout the state to enhance their programs. Grants can be used either for scholarships or for the purchase of equipment to be used in boating and education classes. This grant program allows the Department to increase the number of boaters who receive hands-on boating safety training.

Aquatic centers, operated by universities, cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations, provide onthe-water boating safety education in kayaking, canoeing, water skiing, power boating, sailing, windsurfing, and personal watercraft operation. These programs target university students, the general public, persons with disabilities, and disadvantaged youths.

During the 2003/04 fiscal year, the Department allocated \$620,000 in grants to 36 aquatic centers, which then provided nearly 113,000 individuals with hands-on aquatic and boating education.

Home Study Course

California Boating: A Course for Safe Boating is a free correspondence course. This course is designed for home study, allowing students to progress at their own pace. This comprehensive course covers State and federal boating law, rules of the road, boat handling, required and recommended equipment, navigational aids, and other topics. The course contains an optional exam to be completed on a Scantron form and mailed to the Department for grading. Those who pass the course with a score of 80% or better are awarded with certificates that are

recognized by many insurance companies for boat insurance discounts. In 2004, about 35,000 copies of *California Boating* were distributed to the general public. There were 2,232 exams completed and mailed to the Department in 2004 with a passing rate of 96%.

Many boating organizations, marine dealers, and aquatic centers use the *California Boating* course with their audiences as an introduction to safety for new boaters. Marine law enforcement units also like to hand them out waterside during their patrols and at community service events.

National Safe Boating Week

Each year, the President and the Governor proclaim the week before Memorial Day as National Safe Boating Week. The Department organizes a number of boating safety events during this week designed not only to promote safe boating, but also to promote the sport of boating. Activities featured during this week include:

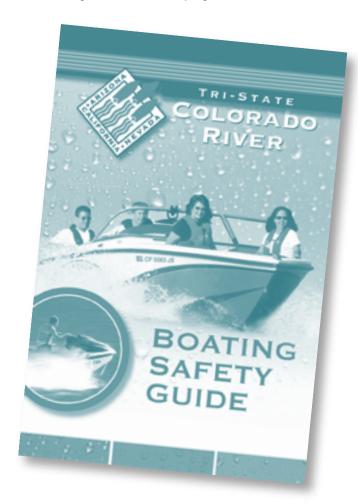
- Highlights of annual boating accident statistics
- News releases featuring boating safety tips
- Interviews with the media
- Life jacket trade-ins

Tri-State Boating Safety Fair

In 2004, the Department of Boating and Waterways hosted a media day and safety event in partnership with the Arizona State Parks, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. This event was named the "Tri-State Boating Safety Fair" at Lake Havasu (a multijurisdictional body of water). The purpose of the event was to kick-off the boating season on the Colorado River and to raise awareness among area boaters of what the Tri-State region (specifically Arizona, California and Nevada) is doing to improve boating safety throughout the Colorado River region. All communication efforts for the day focused on the dangers of negligent operation and excessive speed, alcohol abuse while boating, carbon monoxide poisoning and the importance of wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

Representatives from the National Safe Boating Council, the United States Coast Guard, the Power Squadrons, local law enforcement agencies and various media outlets – KFLG-FM, KLUK-FM and KNKK-FM were on hand to help promote the Safety Fair. Six different radio outlets aired 35 promotional announcements and 23 recorded as well as live callins the day of the event. Boating Law Administrators from California and Arizona along with department educational and safety experts conducted onair interviews with radio personalities. A news story, recorded with the Arizona public relations department, ran on six Mojave stations prior to the event. Lastly, a print ad was placed in the April edition of the On the Water magazine and News-Herald highlighting the Tri-State Fair.

Boating safety bags were handed out at the front gate of the event. Items included educational material from the three states. A Tri-State brochure, listing some of the common boating laws from the three states, was produced to enhance the efforts of the Tri-State boating educational campaign.



Boat Shows

California state law does not require boaters to be licensed, nor does it require them to take a boating safety course. As a consequence, a significant number of accidents and deaths occur. This is why boat shows are so critical.

Boat shows provide an excellent arena in which the Department and law enforcement officials can reduce accident and fatality numbers by educating the public on boating and water safety by handing out pamphlets, sponsoring boating safety puppet shows, giving out promotional items with inscribed boating safety messages, or simply answering questions.

Boat shows give boaters the chance to talk to representatives of local law enforcement agencies, boating associations, and the Department. These agencies work together to provide safer recreational waterways. In 2004, the Department reached over 20,000 boaters.

Spanish Outreach

In order to better serve California's growing Spanish-speaking population, the Department continues to distribute Spanish-language boating and water safety resources. Boaters can order copies of Spanish translations of selected Department publications, or view and download them on Boating and Waterways' new Spanish Website, at www.dbw. ca.gov/Espanol.

In addition, the Department also has a free Spanish-language curriculum material which meets California curriculum standards for the K-2 and 3-5 grade levels. Available to any school, the curriculum contains a teacher's guide, reproducible activity sheets and a video.

Safety Campaign to Boaters

California's Multimedia Boating Safety Awareness Campaign

Boaters across the state are exposed to safety messages as part of the boating environment on outdoor signs such as, billboards, posters, and marina trash receptacles, as well as over the airwaves. In fact, the outdoor billboard and radio campaigns have been used to educate California boaters since 1998.

Because many boaters do not perceive themselves as failing to practice boating safety, the Campaign calls attention to defensive boat operation. Just as road signs on the highways caution drivers to watch out for hazards on the roads, similar signs for the waterways are posted to caution boaters and raise awareness for safer practices when boating. This is the Department's *Road Signs for the Waterways Campaign*. Many of the signs use humor to convey a safety message in an entertaining manner. Overall, the campaign impacts 2 million boaters each year.

Reinforcement came during the summer holiday weekends: Memorial, Independence, and Labor Days on mobile billboards decorated with the *Road Signs for the Waterways*. The traveling billboards placed at marinas and park entrances throughout California, remind boaters of safety on the waterways.

The Campaign's multi-media approach ensures that safety messages reach boaters at the critical moment, just before, and as, they hit the water.

Boating Safety Awareness Radio Campaign

In conjunction with the outdoor component of the media campaign, Cal Boating maintains a statewide radio campaign highlighting the following safety tips:

- The importance of wearing a life jacket.
- The dangers of mixing alcohol and boating.
- River Safety
- Environmental Stewardship Keep it Clean when you boat
- Overall "common sense" boating messages for general boating safety preparedness.
- Responsible operation with an emphasis on "defensive driving".
- Take a boating safety course.

In 2004, the Department added two new boating safety messages to its wide breadth of messages aired up and down California. First of the new radio spots, entitled, *Bev Lite*, accentuated the possible consequences of drinking alcohol while boating. The listener is drawn into the circumstances being played-out, as a boater becomes intoxicated in the radio spot. Next, Cal Boating turned its attention to the growing statistic of carbon monoxide (CO)

poisoning injuries and deaths related to boating. In the *CO Kills* radio spot, the listener learned of the potential for CO poisoning and ways to prevent being succumbed by the deadly fumes.

The Multi-Media Campaign runs year-round in Southern California and from May through October statewide, targeting California's top ten boating accident waterways. Approximately 42 radio stations across the State air safety messages reminding boaters to *Boat Smart* and to visit our website at **BoatSmarter.com**.

Televised Message Campaign

In 2004, KCRA/KQCA, the NBC affiliate in Sacramento, partnered with the Department to air a 30-second public service announcement for television promoting safe boating and taking a boating safety course in its viewing area in Northern California.

During the 2004 boating season, the Campaign's

Special Programs

Cal Boating's Safety Team

Safety Team continued its outreach from Memorial Day to Labor Day with the **Safe Boating is BIG FUN** recreational vehicle making appearances at more than 40 marinas and launching ramps statewide. Boating information was distributed along with prizes for playing the Safety Trivia Quiz at all of the *Safety Team's* events. The *Team* also went to additional locations in 2004 to reach even more boaters and water sport enthusiasts and created a new website **www safeboatingisbigfun.com** to promote its appearances and the prize giveaways.

All the radio stations participating in Cal Boating's Safety Campaign run promotional announcements promoting the *Safety Team's* appearances at local waterways. Stations also promote these appearances and the Department of Boating and Waterways on their stations' websites. Each station then brings their promotional set-up—a station vehicle,

tent promotional items and on occasion remote broadcast from the event. Life jackets and free Cal Boating branded educational items are also distributed in fun ways like spinning the prize wheel and having people answer trivia questions.

National Safe Boating Week

For National Safe Boating Week, 30 second vignettes reminded boaters and the public about boating safe and smart just in time for the Memorial Day holiday. A total of 215 vignettes aired in the top vessel-accidents areas of California. In conjunction, Community Service Programs on 10 radio stations, ran either a half hour or full hour program dedicated to speaking about accident statistics, boating and alcohol, and carbon monoxide poisoning prevention.

Special Awards

The National Association of Government Communicators recognized the Department's safe speed *Roadsign – Slow, Slow, Slow your boat.*



C. Public Information Education through Pamphlets

In 2004, the Department distributed 1.2 million copies of boating safety literature to the public. The Department's Public Information Unit publishes and distributes more than 50 different boating safety publications. The publications cover a variety of topics emphasizing boating safety on California waterways and are also available on the department's websites, www.dbw.ca.gov or www.BoatSmarter.com.

Materials focus on subjects such as key safety issues for individual waterways, required

equipment, and operational laws. The unit mails these publications directly to individuals and provides various organizations with materials for distribution. Department representatives also attend numerous safety fairs and boat shows, distributing literature and answering questions. Currently, the Department of Motor Vehicles mails the Department of Boating and Waterways' safety brochures with each new vessel registration and each renewal.

D. Abandoned Watercraft Removal Program

The Department administers the Abandoned Watercraft Removal Fund Program for the removal of abandoned watercraft and substantial navigational hazards from California's waterways. These funds are made available to the local public agencies for the removal, storage, and disposal of navigational hazards. For fiscal year 2003/2004, a total of \$413,770.00 was allocated to local agencies. The following chart depicts the funds granted to the local public agencies for 2004:

Agency Name	# of Hazards	Amount
City of Long Beach	5	\$10,000
Moss Landing	16	\$86,760
Richardson Bay Regional Agency	85	\$177,750
San Mateo County Harbor District	5	\$35,000
City of Santa Barbara Waterfront	29	\$47,700
City of Vallejo	12	\$32,500
Ventura County/Channel Island Harbor	8	\$20,000
Ventura Port District	5	\$4,060

2004-2005 New Laws and Enhancements

A. New Laws

Carbon Monoxide

As of January 1, 2005, California law prohibits operating a vessel's motor while a person is teak surfing, platform dragging, or bodysurfing behind the vessel. "Teak surfing" or "platform dragging," is a nationwide fad that involves pulling a person through the boat's wake while the person holds on to the back of the boat. The law imposes a fine of up to \$100 on anyone who operates a vessel's engine while a person is holding on to the swim platform, swim ladder, or swim step on a boat. The law provides exceptions for briefly assisting with docking or departure, entering or exiting the vessel, or participating in law enforcement or emergency rescue activity.



B. Program Enhancements

Life Jacket Use

- The Department continues the *Life Jacket Loan* Program aimed at increasing the use of life jackets by everyone in the community planning a boating or other waterside activity. The life jacket loan program promotes the use of life jackets by offering free short term life jacket use for the public. The Department has partnered with fire stations in the Greater Sacramento area to house and check out life jackets to the public. Fire stations have proved to be convenient locations where residents can go to borrow life jackets. In 2004, an additional fire district in El Dorado County and several retail locations in Humboldt County joined the program. A current list of loan locations can be found on the DBW website at www.dbw.ca.gov/lifejacket.
- The Department continues its *T-Shirt Program*, aimed at increasing the use of life jackets by children. Marine enforcement units, U.S. Coast Guard Stations, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas, and U.S. Power Squadrons are supplied with T-shirts for children. The shirts are used to reward children under the age of 12 found wearing their life jacket while boating. This popular program recognizes safe behavior and reinforces continued use of life jackets by this target group.
- The Department continues a radio ad campaign informing boaters of laws requiring that persons aboard PWC, persons towed behind boats and children under 12 on vessels 26 feet or less to wear life jackets. This safety message is being aired on radio stations throughout

- California and targets boaters in areas where high numbers of accidents occur.
- The Department continues placing billboards in areas where accidents are most prevalent and has added to this outreach effort by placing safety messages on posters and refuse barrels at marinas. *These Road Signs for the Waterways*, increase boating safety awareness throughout the State.
- The Department continues promoting the use of life jackets at safety fairs and boat shows throughout the state, through the annual *Safe and Wise Water Ways* poster contest for children, and at National Safe Boating Week events. In 2004, the Department continued airing the 30-second public service announcement for television produced by KCRA/KQCA. The PSA promotes safe boating and taking a boating safety course to the viewing audience in Northern California.
- In 2004, the Department partnered with Infinity Broadcasting, Radio Disney, Nor Cal Water, and Shell gas stations to remind their collective clients in Northern California to "Get Hooked on H₂O" and Boat Smart from the Start... Wear Your Life Jacket. An estimated 12 million impressions were made on clients as the messages traveled the airwaves and were viewed at purchase points.

Personal Watercraft

■ The Department distributes a short course on PWC operation and safe boat handling that was developed in cooperation with the California State Sheriff's Association. The course is also available online at www.dbw.ca.gov/ **PWCOnline/index**. The course is intended for PWC operators of all ages and is available to the general public. It is designed so that it can easily be incorporated into existing safety programs offered by organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, marine law enforcement agencies, and aquatic centers. There is a 20-question exam at the end of the booklet to self-test on the material covered. The promotion of safe operation of PWC is a component of the Department's outdoor media campaign. This basic course does not earn a certificate, but is

- simply a tool to introduce new PWC operators to laws, requirements, and important safety issues associated with their vessels. Those who complete the quiz online are rewarded with access to some boating-themed screensavers.
- The Department continues to offer a PWChandling course specifically for law enforcement.
 This course has been P.O.S.T.-certified.
- The Department continues a radio ad campaign informing boaters of the new laws requiring that persons aboard PWC wear life jackets. This safety message is being aired on radio stations throughout California and targets boaters in high accident areas.

Youth Operator Safety

- The AquaSMART Boating program for high school students continues to be distributed to schools throughout California. This course incorporates key safety concerns identified by accident statistics. Four types of boating are addressed: personal watercraft, power boating, sailing, and paddling. The course is available to schools, aquatic centers, and youth organizations.
- The curriculum for youth programs includes information on the dangers of alcohol and drug use, especially when boating. Zero tolerance is emphasized for anyone engaged in aquatic recreation.

Alcohol

- The Department's radio campaign confronted the dangers of drinking alcohol while boating by creating Bev Lite. This radio message leads the listener through the false bravado and subsequent consequences of drinking alcohol while boating. It aired on radio stations throughout California and targeted boaters in areas with the highest accident rates.
- The Department continues to notify law enforcement agencies statewide about alcoholrelated fatalities and encourage them to strengthen their educational and enforcement efforts in this area. The Department reinforces this message at all of its law enforcement training classes.

■ The Department's GET H₂OOKED ON SOBER BOATING T-Shirt promotion continued at boat shows and other outreach venues throughout the state.

 The Department is improving the collection of carbon monoxide boating accident data by increasing training to law enforcement officers who investigate accidents.

Carbon Monoxide Education

■ In 2004, the Department's safety awareness campaign created and introduced *CO Kills*, a radio message on the prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning while boating. The message aired statewide and foretold of the new anti-"teak surfing" law.

■ In 2004, the Department distributed 25,000 brochures to educate boaters of the dangers of marine carbon monoxide poisoning. It also includes warning stickers for a boat's helm and transom. The brochure is distributed at

boat shows, safety fairs, and other events and is also available on the Department's Website as part of a carbon monoxide information Webpage.

CARBON MONOXIDE

 The Department is producing both a TV and a radio PSA to increase awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Improved Internet Access

The AquaSMART Internet education pages
www.dbw.ca.gov/aquasmart supplement the
Department's AquaSMART curriculum series.
The design is bright and content addresses
boating safety in a fun manner, as the web
page is targeted primarily at children exposed
to the AquaSMART curriculum series. The
secondary audience includes teachers,
parents, and other boaters. A link to the
Department's homepage is provided for
persons seeking more detailed boating
safety information.

■ The Department experienced continued success with its web page www.BoatSmarter.com. This web page

is publicized through the Department's radio and outdoor media campaign and is easy to remember. Visitors to the site can click on "road sign" billboards and other icons for more information on boating safety and education programs.

C. Other Safety Enhancements

- In 2004, the Department partnered with Infinity Broadcasting, Radio Disney, Nor Cal (water), and Shell Oil to remind their collective clients/audiences in Northern California to Get Hooked on H_2O and Boat Smart from the Start... Wear Your Life Jacket. During the months of May through September, radio stations KNCI and KIID ran radio announcements over three-week spans for the major holidays of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. These announcements proclaimed boating safety messages and directed listeners to Shell stations to obtain safety literature and purchase Nor Cal water. Three live remote broadcasts were sponsored by the Department and produced by KNCI to take boating material
- to the public and offer a life jacket trade-in old for new. Shell stations in the Greater Sacramento area offered the pamphlet, *ABC's of California Boating Law*, to their customers and hosted the live remote broadcasts. An estimated 30 million message impressions were made in this partnership via the airwaves and were viewed at purchase points.
- In 2004 the Department sponsored 80 AquaSMART Live performances. The traveling puppet show is hosted by Splasher the Frog, mascot of the AquaSMART program. AquaSMART Live has two programs for grades K-3 and 4-6. The K-3 program uses stunt dummies to demonstrate to the children what can happen when you do not play safe in and

around the water. The 4-6 program is a game show format where two teams compete for prizes while learning how to stay safe in and around the water.

- To further enhance river safety, the Department offers an assortment of river guides to California rivers that have been designated as boating trails. The Department continues to warn boaters about hazardous water conditions on California's rivers, especially during spring and early summer when water levels are high from snow pack run-off.
- The Department's new water skiing safety video is now in distribution. The updated version includes not only traditional water skiing activities, but also wake boarding, knee boarding, inner tubing, and air chair activities.
- The Department continues outreach efforts to anglers by placing safety articles and messages in fishing publications throughout the state.
- The Law Enforcement Unit continues to conduct the Accident Reconstruction Course on the water, providing staged accidents for reconstruction by students. Many law enforcement officers believe this course helps them reconstruct accidents more accurately.



 A television PSA on boating and alcohol was distributed to TV stations throughout the state.

Spanish Outreach Campaign

In order to better serve California's growing Spanish-speaking population, the Department continues to distribute Spanish-language boating and water safety resources. Boaters can order copies of Spanish translations of selected Department publications, or view and download them on Boating and Waterways' new Spanish Webpage, at www.dbw.ca.gov/Espanol.

Life Jacket Trade-In

The life jacket trade-in program continued in grander scope for National Safe Boating week of 2004. The Department partnered with Radio Disney, Infinity Broadcasting and nine Sam's Club stores statewide to host consecutive trade-ins. Radio Disney and Infinity Broadcasting aired promotion for the events on their family of stations and held live remote broadcasts at five of the stores during the event.

Life jackets were offered free to the first 50 persons at each store who brought in their old deteriorated life vests during a two-hour window. Sam's Club donated life jackets at many participating locations for the event. Children's life jackets were obtained at discounted rates from Stearns and FINIS. Safety experts at each location examined the life jackets brought in to determine if they were serviceable or in need of replacement. A limit of one free life jacket was allowed per family while supplies lasted. For additional requests, Sam's Club handed out \$10 discount coupons toward the purchase of a new life jacket.

Nearly 300 new life jackets were exchanged for those found to be unserviceable during these tradein events.

Curriculum Revision

The Department continues its revision of the *AquaSMART* curriculum series. The curriculum for Kindergarten-Second Grade (Champion of the Waterways) was completed. *AquaSMART* hero Splasher the Frog guides students through the 10 *AquaSMART* lessons on water and boating safety.

The curriculum revision for grades 3-5 was begun and re-titled *AquaSMART LIVE!* The new program takes the format of an interactive game show with three rounds of fun-filled action and two physical challenges. In combination, the components guide students through the ten *AquaSMART* lessons.

The program series consists of a video and teacher's guide with reproducible student worksheets for each level. For grades K-2 and 3-5, the video is also available in Spanish along with a set of reproducible Spanish student worksheets. The teacher's guides also contain a chart indicating how the lessons fit into the California Curriculum Standards, a recommended reading list, and a list of additional video resources.

Curriculum materials are made available to schools, youth groups, aquatic centers, and other educators at no cost. Revisions will continue through the series of three elementary school programs and high school program.

Safe Kids Coalition

The Department participates on the Greater Sacramento Safe Kids Coalition under the Drowning Prevention subcommittee. As a river city that also has a number of lakes and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in close proximity, Sacramento has a need to protect its children from drowning when boating or recreating near the water. The Department provides educational materials for outreach to the community and expertise on open water activities and incidents.

Tri-State Boating Safety Fair

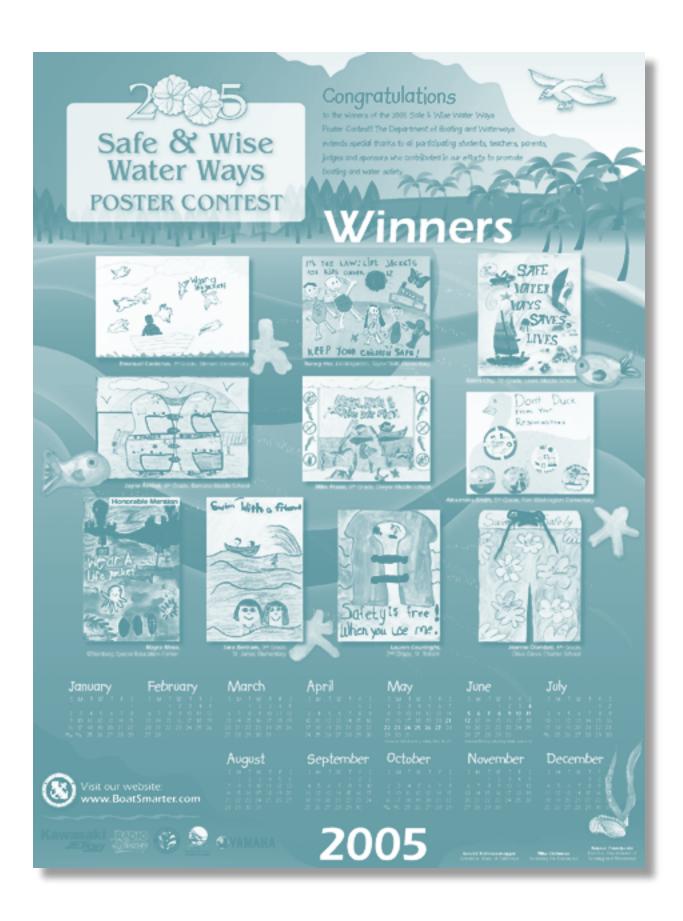
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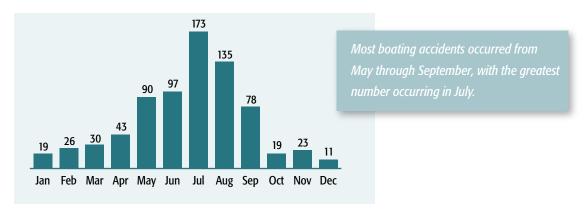
Accident Data Charts



The charts in this section are designed to provide general statewide information on boating accidents. Some charts are organized by the number of accidents or fatalities. Other charts are organized by the number of vessels involved in accidents. The totals listed on the charts listing types of accident (Charts 8, 15, 24) and the causes of accidents (Charts 9, 16, 25) exceed the total number of accidents because many accidents fell into more than one category. The charts listing the ages of operators involved in accidents (Charts 6, 22) show both the total number of vessels involved in accidents and a smaller total showing the total number of operators involved in accidents, as not all vessels had operators.

Chart 1 | Accidents by Month

Total Accidents = 744



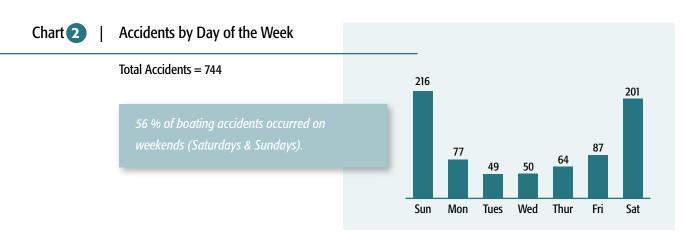
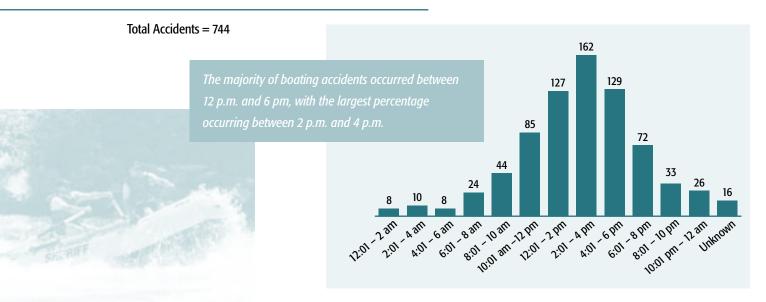


Chart Accidents by Time of Day



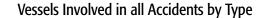
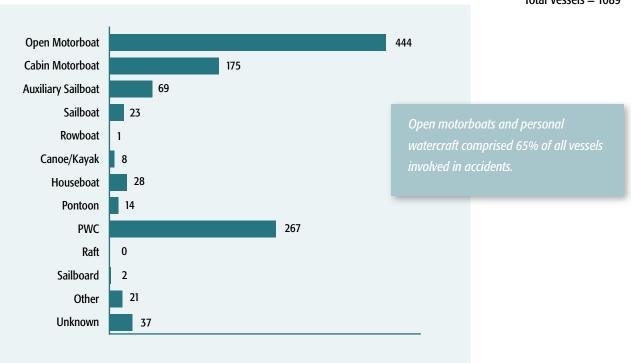


Chart 4



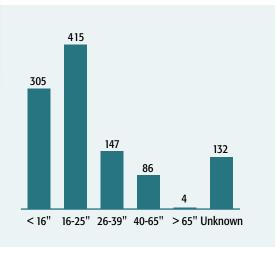


Vessels Involved in all Accidents by Length

Chart 5

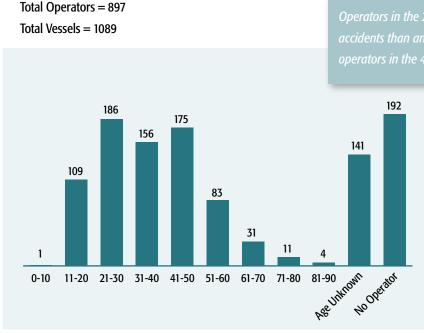
Total Vessels = 1089

Vessels 16-25 feet in length were involved in more accidents than any other category, followed closely by vessels less than 16 feet in length. These two categories accounted for 66% of all vessels involved in accidents.





Operators Involved in All Accidents by Age



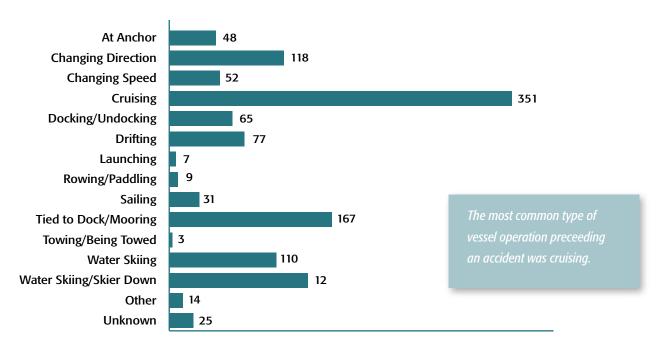
Operators in the 21-30 age group were involved in more accidents than any other age group followed closely by operators in the 41-50 and 31-40 age groups.

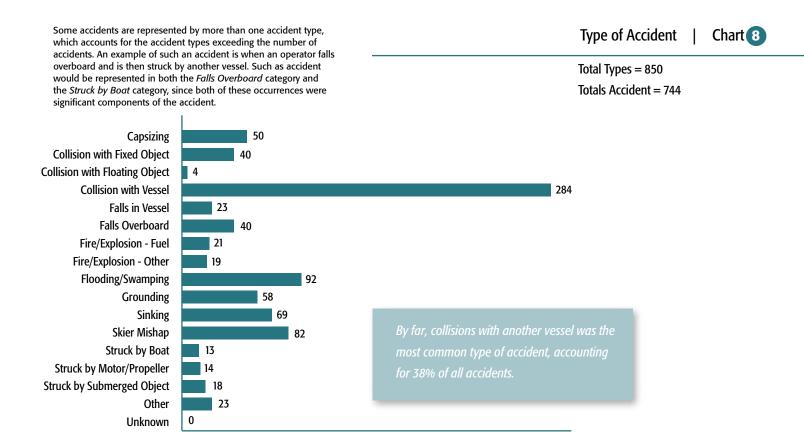
No Operator refers to accidents involving vessels where there was no operator present at the time of the accident. Most of these vessels were in vessel slips, tied to docks, or moored, and were struck by other vessels. Some accident reports submitted to the Department do not include operator age information, as indicated by the Age Unknown category.

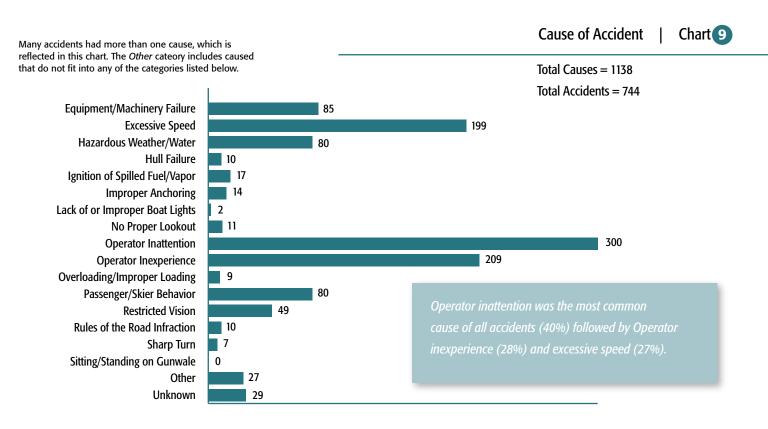
Chart 7

Operation at Time of Accident

Total Vessels = 1089







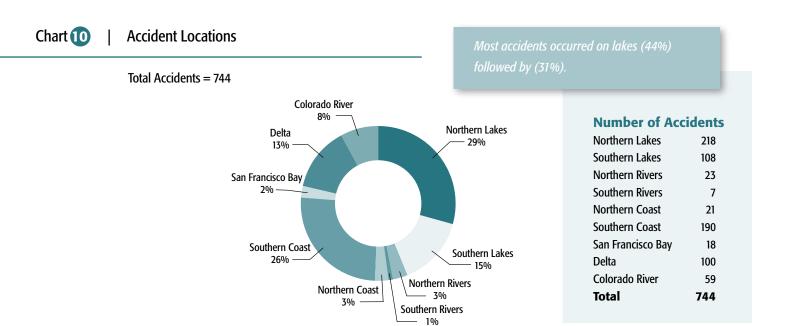
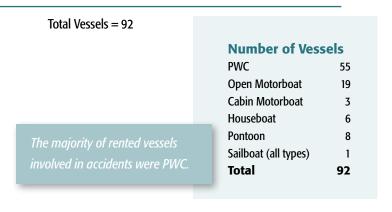
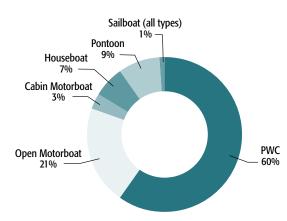


Chart 1 | Water Skiing Accidents





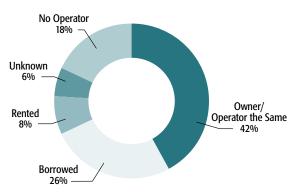
Vessels, PWC, & Open Motorboats linvolved in Accidents

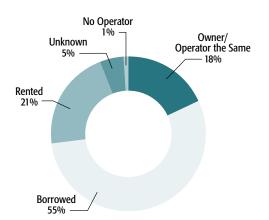
Chart 13

Vessels Involved in Accidents

(Rented/Borrowed/Owned)

Number of Vessels Owner/ Operator the Same 453 Borrowed 288 Rented 92 Unknown 64 No Operator 192 TOTAL 1089





PWC Involved in Accidents

(Rented/Borrowed/Owned)

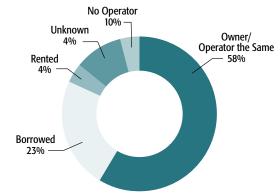
Number of PW	Cs
Owner/ Operator the Same	49
Borrowed	147
Rented	55
Unknown	13
No Operator	3
TOTAL	267

Open Motorboats Involved in Accidents

Number	of	Open	Motorboats
Owner/			

Operator the Same 258
Borrowed 104
Rented 19
No Operator 46
Unknown 17
TOTAL 444

(Rented/Borrowed/Owned)



Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Chart 14

Open Motorboats/PWC – Operators Involved in Accidents by Age

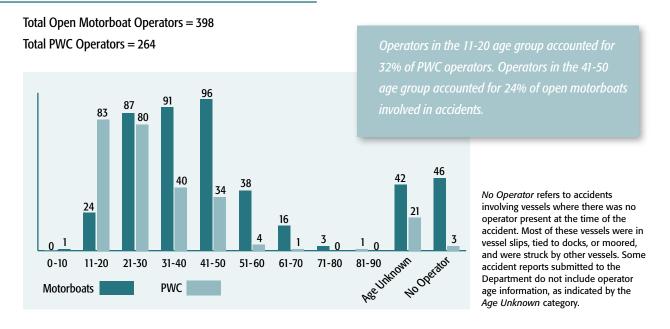
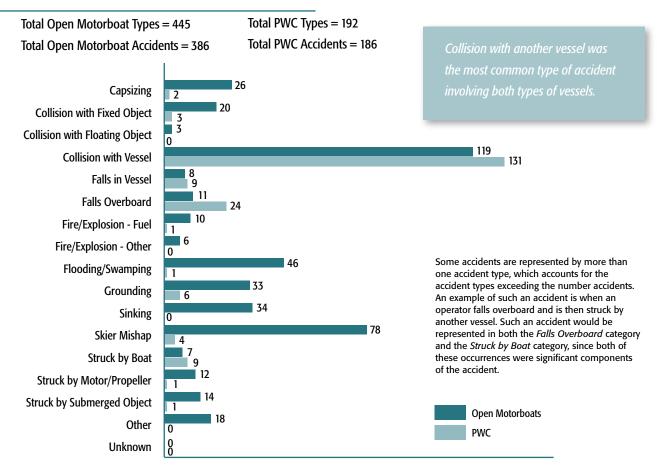


Chart **(5)** | Open Motorboats/PWC – Type of Accident

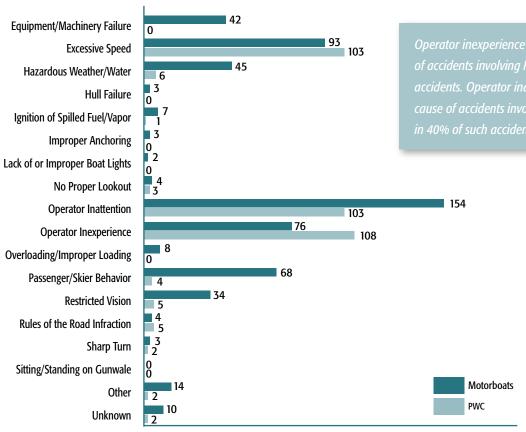


Open Motorboats/PWC – Cause of Accident |



Total Open Motorboat Causes = 570 Total Open Motorboat Accidents = 386 Total PWC Types = 344

Total PWC Accidents = 186



Many accidents had more than one cause, which is reflected in this chart. The *Other* category includes causes that do not fit into any of the categories listed above.



Chart 17

Fatalities by Month

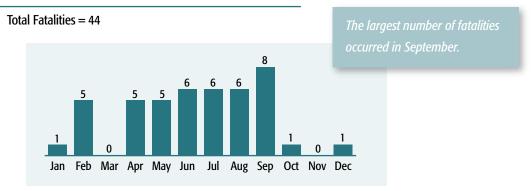


Chart 18

Fatalities by Day of the Week

Total Fatalities = 44

45% of fatal boating accidents occurred on weekends. (Saturday and Sunday.) An additional 25% occurred on a Monday. The majority of these occurred during a 3-day holiday weekend.

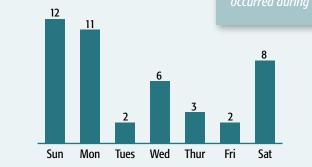
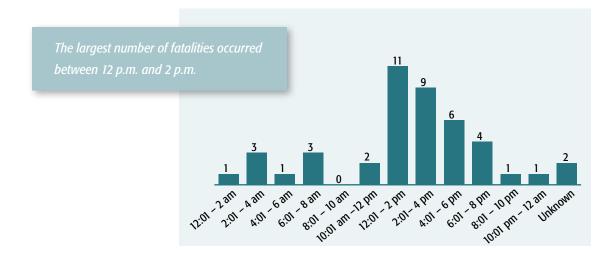
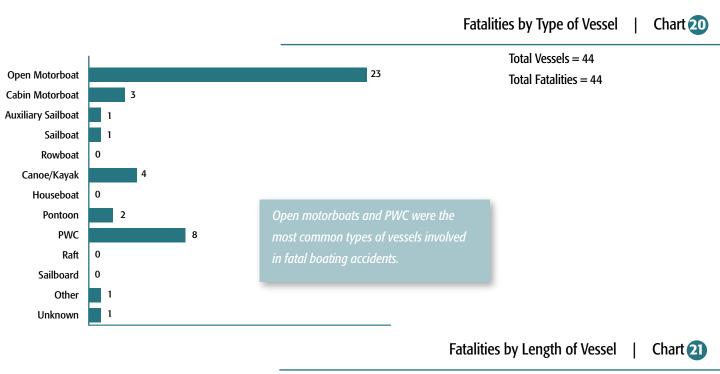


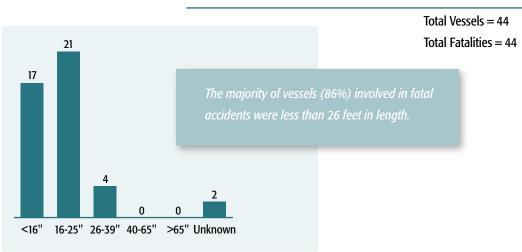
Chart 19

Fatalities by Time of Day

Total Fatalities = 44







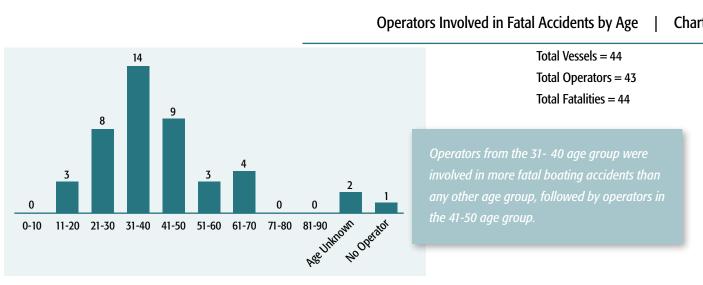


Chart 23

Fatalities by Operator at Time of Accident

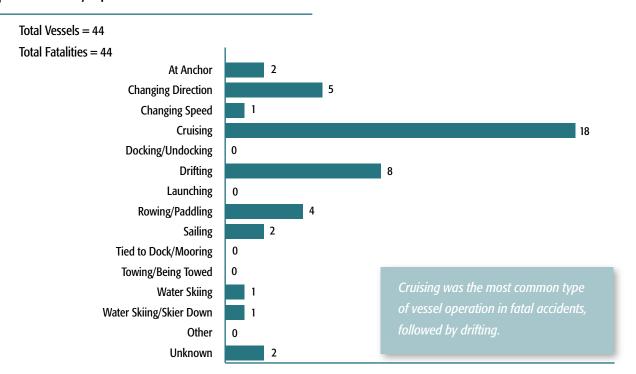
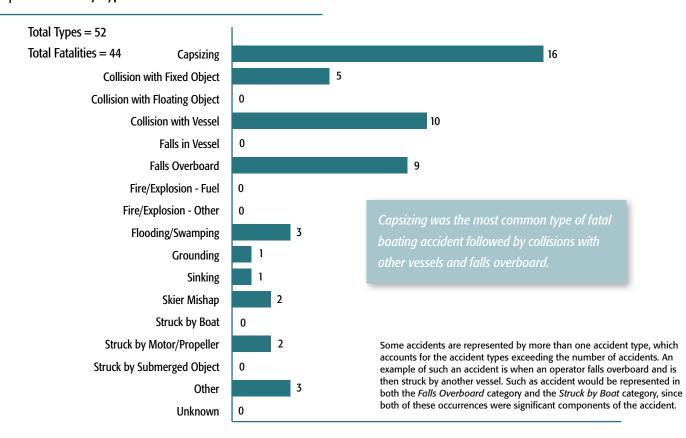
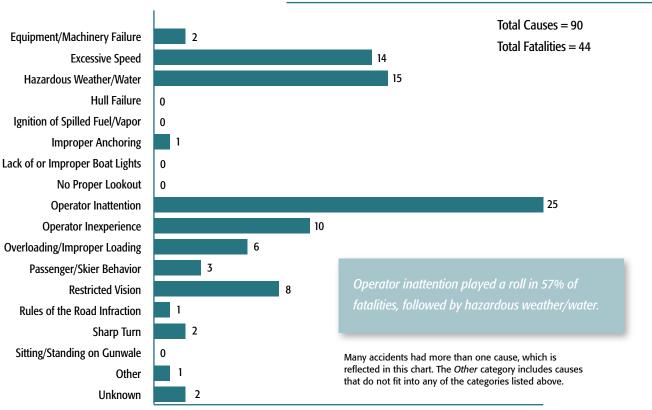


Chart 24

Fatalities by Type of Accident



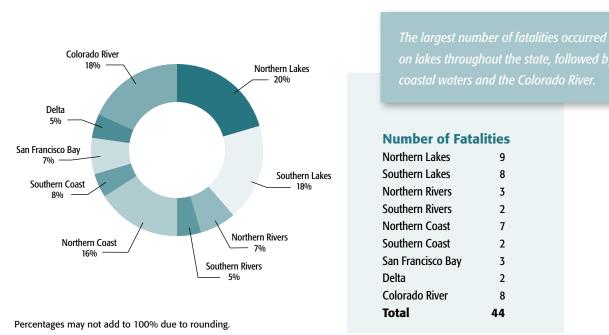




Fatalities by Accident Location

Chart 26

Total Fatalities = 44





Fatalities by Age of Victim

Total Fatalities = 44

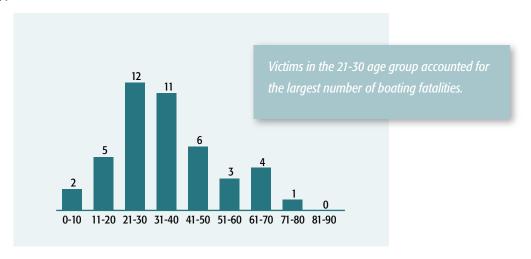
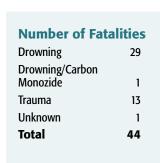
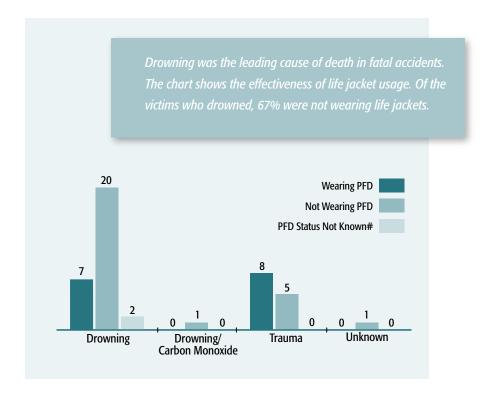


Chart 28

Fatalities by Cause of Death

Total Causes = 44 Total Fatalities = 44





The operator of every recreational vessel is required by Section 656 of the Harbors and Navigation Code to file a written report whenever a boating accident occurs which results in death, disappearance, injury that requires medical attention beyond first aid, total property damage in excess of \$500, or complete loss of a vessel. Reports must be submitted within 48 hours in case of death occurring within 24 hours of an accident, disappearance, or injury beyond first aid. All other reports must be submitted within 10 days of the accident. Reports are to be submitted to the California Department of Boating and Waterways at 2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95815-3888, (916) 263-8189. Failure to submit this report as required is a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months or both. DATE OF ACCIDENT (M/D/Y) TIME OF ACCIDENT COUNTY BODY OF WATER LOCATION ON WATER ☐ AM ☐ PM # INJURED LAW ENFORCEMENT ON ACCIDENT SCENE? AGENCY NAME # DFAD TOTAL \$\$ ☐ YES ☐ NO WEATHER (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): WATER CONDITIONS WIND CONDITIONS TEMPERATURE ■ NONE ☐ CALM (waves less than 6") WATER AIR ☐ CLEAR ☐ RAIN ☐ LIGHT (0-6 mph) VISIBILITY STRONG CURRENT ☐ CHOPPY (waves 6"-2') ☐ CLOUDY ☐ SNOW ☐ MODERATE (7-14 mph) ☐ GOOD ☐ ROUGH (waves 2'-6') ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ STRONG (15-25 mph) ☐ FAIR ☐ HAZY FOG ☐ VERY ROUGH (waves >6') ☐ STORM (over 25 mph) ☐ POOR TYPE OF ACCIDENT (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): CAUSE OF ACCIDENT (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): □ CAPSIZING ☐ IMPROPER LOOKOUT / INATTENTION ☐ HAZARDOUS WEATHER / WATER ☐ FIRE / EXPLOSION (fuel) ☐ COLLISION WITH VESSEL ☐ FIRE / EXPLOSION (other than fuel) ☐ OPERATOR INEXPERIENCE ☐ RESTRICTED VISION ☐ COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT ☐ FLOODING / SWAMPING ☐ EXCESSIVE SPEED ☐ IGNITION OF SPILLED FUEL / VAPOR ☐ COLLISION WITH FLOATING OBJECT ☐ SINKING ■ MACHINERY FAILURE ☐ IMPROPER ANCHORING ☐ FALL OVERBOARD ☐ STRUCK BY BOAT / PROPELLER ☐ OFF-THROTTLE STEERING INABILITY ■ EQUIPMENT FAILURE ☐ FALL IN BOAT ☐ SKIER MISHAP ☐ IMPROPER LOADING ☐ FAILURE TO VENT ☐ OTHER _ ☐ OVERLOADING ☐ OTHER _ DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT YOU COULD HAVE DONE TO PREVENT THIS ACCIDENT (Explain the cause of death or injury, medical treatment, etc. Use sketch if helpful. If needed, continue description on additional paper.) **VICTIM OR WITNESS INFORMATION** VICTIM / WITNESS COULD LIFE JACKET **VICTIM / WITNESS** RIDING IN AGE INJURY DESCRIPTION **CAUSE OF DEATH** NAME & ADDRESS STATUS VESSEL # VICTIM SWIM? WORN? ☐ INJURED DROWNING ☐ YES ☐ YES DEAD ☐ TRAUMA \square NO □ NO ☐ WITNESS ONLY ☐ OTHER ■ INJURED □ DROWNING ☐ YES ☐ YES ☐ TRAUMA ☐ DEAD □ NO □ NO ☐ WITNESS ONLY ☐ OTHER ☐ INJURED ☐ DROWNING ☐ YES YES ☐ DEAD ☐ TRAUMA □ № □ NO ☐ OTHER ☐ WITNESS ONLY □ INJURED □ DROWNING ☐ YES ☐ YES □ DEAD ☐ TRAUMA □ NO □ NO ☐ WITNESS ONLY OTHER

INFORMATION: OPERATOR #1															
OPERATOR NAME AND ADDRESS			IS OWNER DIFFERENT THAN OPERATOR?				□ NO OPERATOR EXPERIENCE				OPERATOR EDUCATION				
				OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS					☐ 10 TC	UNDER 10 HOURS 10 TO 100 HOURS OVER 100 HOURS		☐ AMERICAN RED CROSS ☐ USCG AUXILIARY ☐ US POWER SQUADRON ☐ STATE COURSE ☐ INFORMAL			
AGE												NONE			
						NFORMATIC	NC	I: VESSE	L #1					()	YOUR VESSEL)
THIS VESSEL ONLY	# INJURED	# DEAD	ESTIMATE	ED DAMAGE		RENTED BOAT	NO	•	# OF PERSONS ON B			NS ON BOARD		# OF PERSONS TOWED	
BOAT NUMBER (CF OF	R DOC #)		MFR. HUL	L ID #	BOAT NAME						LENGTH				
BOAT MANUFACTURE	R	1	BOAT MODEL				YE	EAR BUILT	TYPE OF I	FUEL	#0	F ENGINES		HORSEPOW	ER
ACTIVITY					FIRE	EXTINGUISHER ON BOAR	RD	FIRE EXTINGU	ISHER USED LIFE JACKETS ON		ON BOARD	ON BOARD LIFE JACKETS A		ETS ACCESSIBLE LIFE JACKETS WORN	
RECREATION	AL COMME	RCIAL 🗆	OTHER			☐ YES ☐ NO		☐ YES	□ №	☐ YES	□ NO	D	/ES [□ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO
TYPE OF BOAT		HULL N	IATERIAL			PROPULSION			OPERATIO	ON AT TIME OF ACCI	ENT				
☐ OPEN MOTO			WOOD			☐ OUTBOARD			_	RUISING			_	DRIFTING	
☐ CABIN MOT			ALUMINUM			☐ INBOARD				HANGING DIREC				AT ANCH	
☐ HOUSEBOA			FIBERGLAS	S		□ INBOARD / O	UTE	BOARD		HANGING SPEE			_	TIED TO	
☐ SAILBOAT (aux. engine)		PLASTIC			☐ JET				OWING SKIER /			_	LAUNCH	
☐ SAILBOAT (• • •		RUBBER / V			☐ SAIL ONLY				OWING SKIER- S					G / LEAVING DOCK
☐ CANOE / KA	NYAK	''	OTHER (spe	сіту)		☐ PADDLE / OA☐ OTHER (spec			_		_		_	SAILING	
□ ROWBOAT		-			-	□ OTTLK (spec	, ii y	,	☐ BEING TOWED BY ANOTHER VE			.K VLJJL	SSEL OTHER (specify)		
☐ OTHER (spe	ecify)	_							_ SPEED	SPEEDMPH					
					INF	ORMATION	l: '	OPERAT	OR #2						
OPERATOR NAME AND) ADDRESS			IS OWNER D	IFFEREN	NT THAN OPERATOR?		☐ YES	⊓ №	OPERATOR EX	PERIENCE		OPER	ATOR EDUCA	ATION
				OWNER NAME AND ADDRESS			UNDER 10 HOURS				☐ AMERICAN RED CROSS				
								☐ 10 TO 100 HOURS				☐ USCG AUXILIARY ☐ US POWER SQUADRON			
											100 HOL	JRS		STATE	COURSE
AGE				1									. –	INFORM NONE	AL
					П	NFORMATIC	N	I: VESSE	L #2			(0	ЭТНЕ	R VESS	EL INVOLVED)
THIS VESSEL ONLY	# INJURED	# DEAD	ESTIMATI	ED DAMAGE \$\$	RENTED BOAT ☐ YES ☐ NO)	# OF PERSONS ON BOARD			# OF PERSONS TOWED			
BOAT NUMBER (CF OF	R DOC #)		MFR. HUL	L ID#			В	OAT NAME	LENGTH				тн		
BOAT MANUFACTURE	R	1	BOAT MODEL					EAR BUILT	TYPE OF I	YPE OF FUEL		# OF ENGINES HORSEPON		ER	
ACTIVITY	IAL COMME	RCIAL 🗆	OTHER		FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON BOAR			D FIRE EXTINGUISHER USED					CKETS AC	CCESSIBLE NO	LIFE JACKETS WORN
TYPE OF BOAT		HULL N	IATERIAL		1	PROPULSION		OPERATION AT TIME OF ACC			ENT				
☐ OPEN MOTO	ORBOAT		WOOD			☐ OUTBOARD			□ CI	RUISING	☐ DRIFTING				
☐ CABIN MOT			ALUMINUM			☐ INBOARD			☐ CHANGING DIRECTION ☐ AT ANCHOR						OR
☐ PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ☐ FIBERGLAS				<u> </u>				BOARD	☐ CHANGING SPEED ☐ TIED TO DOCK						роск
☐ HOUSEBOAT ☐ PLASTIC					☐ JET		☐ TOWING SKIER			KIER / TUBER					
□ SAILBOAT (aux. engine) □ SAILBOAT (sail only) □ RUBBER / VI			_				☐ TOWING SKIER-			IER- SKIER DOWN DOCKING / LEAVING DOCK					
☐ CANOE / KA			OTHER (spe	cify)		☐ PADDLE / OA	RS	RS			NOTHER VESSEL SAILING				
☐ RAFT		.			-	☐ OTHER (spec	ify)	☐ BEING TOWED B			ED BY ANOTHER VESSEL				
☐ ROWBOAT ☐ OTHER (spe	ecify)								SPEED						
_ CITIEN (Spe		_							_		MPH				
NAME OF BERGO	N COMPLETING								QUALIF	ICATION (OF PERS	SON COMP	LETING REPORT		
NAME OF PERSO	N COMPLETING								□ ОР	ERATOR	□ ov	WNER	OTHER (specify)		
SIGNATURE OF P	ERSON COMPLI	ETING THE	REPORT _												

